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USSR/Poland

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

2 December 1980

ALERT MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Security Council

SUBJECT : Possible Soviet Military Intervention in Poland

I believe the Soviets are readying their forces for military intervention in Poland. We do not know, however, whether they have made the decision to intervene, or are still attempting to find a political solution.

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STANSFIELD TURNER

Attachment:

[redacted]

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TOP SECRET [redacted]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

2 December 1980

ALERT MEMORANDUM*

Possible Soviet Military Intervention in Poland

There are indications that the Soviets are increasing preparations for an invasion of Poland. Recent military activities in and around Poland are highly unusual or unprecedented for this time of year.

This could be designed to intimidate the Polish leadership and population, but in view of other military activity in the Western USSR it could also serve as a cover for an intervention. The unusual closing of large areas of the GDR along the East German-Polish border between 30 November and 9 December is probably related. A summary of relevant military developments is attached in an annex.

A substantial buildup of forces could now be underway in the Western Military Districts of the USSR.

**The Alert Memorandum is an interagency publication issued by the Director of Central Intelligence on behalf of the Intelligence Community. Its purpose is to ensure that senior policymakers are aware of impending potential developments that may have serious implications for US interests. It is not a prediction that these developments will occur. This memorandum has been coordinated at the working level with CIA, DIA, NSA, State/INR, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and the Strategic Warning Staff. (S)*

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] There might be very little
warning time prior to an invasion. [REDACTED]

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On balance, this activity does not necessarily indicate that a Soviet invasion is imminent. We believe that these preparations suggest, however, that a Soviet intervention is increasingly likely. [REDACTED]

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